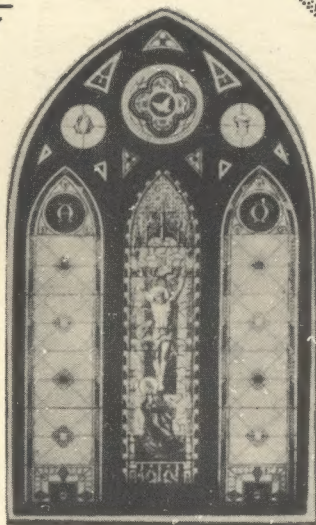


CHRIST CHURCH
WINNIPEG



75
YEARS

1875-1950

DECEMBER 3, 1950

IN THIS WE PIONEERED . . .

- 1882 Weekly service of Holy Communion established by the second rector, Rev. E. S. W. Pentreath. This was the most important of many features of church life introduced about this time at Christ Church, and we believe we were one of the very earliest of the churches of the West to honour the Lord of the church in this way.
- 1884 Simultaneously with All Saints, the (for those days) startling innovation of a surpliced choir.
- 1887 Foundation of St. Mark's Mission in Gomez St. In 1892 this work was moved to St. Vital to be the beginning of the present parish of St. Mark . . . to whom we send our greetings at this time.
- 1891 Rector of Christ Church made the first honorary Canon of St. John's Cathedral.
- 1893 Six deacons and nine priests ordained in Christ Church, the largest ordination held in the diocese up to that time.
- 1929 The Sir Hugh Macdonald Hostel for Boys was started in connection with the social service work at that time being carried on in Christ Church.
- 1938 The Air Cadets of Canada started in our basement by a group of boys of the parish under the leadership of Mr. A. E. Bennett, now the Peoples Warden.
- 1950 We don't know whether this is a record or not, but we are very proud of the fact that both our church wardens, G. W. Ashton and A. E. Bennett, are now lay-readers.



Greetings to all at Christ Church on the occasion of the Celebration of your Seventy-Fifth Anniversary. I hope to be with you to bring these Greetings in person at 11.00 o'clock on Sunday morning December 3rd.

The Parish has had a long and honourable history and none perhaps has suffered more from changing conditions in the life of this great City. But her witness is still needed and I trust will be long given. Certainly it will continue so long as God raises up faithfull servants and workers as He has through all the years.

My best wishes to you all.

Faithfully your Friend and Archbishop,

L.R. H. yards (and)

Christ Church

(ANGLICAN)
KING AND HENRY
WINNIPEG, CANADA



It gives me great pleasure to contribute a foreword to this book. I shall always count it a real privilege to have ministered in this parish. Things have not been easy in the parish since business and industry have marched into the middle of the parish and hidden the Church from obvious view. But the worship of God has been maintained, and the parishioners have been served in many ways.

The word "forward" has been prominent in Christ Church affairs for the last two or three years, and forward we will go to work with God his plans for this corner of the parish.

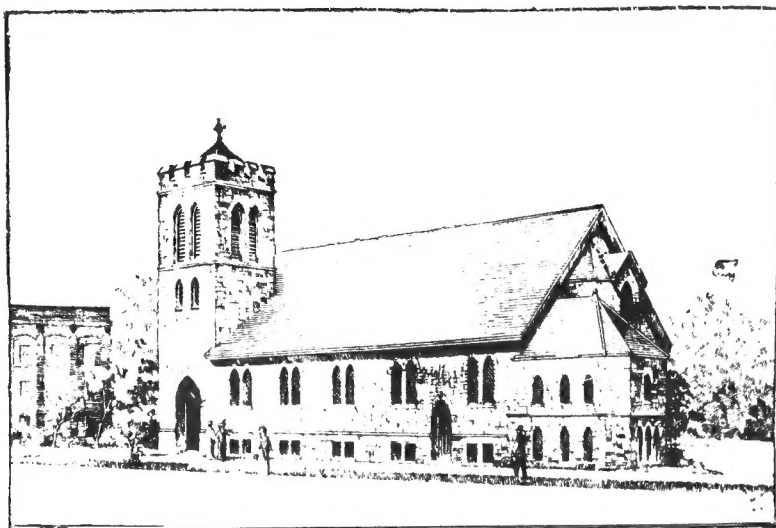
George M. Davidson.

1875

1950

Christ Church

Winnipeg, Man.



THIS brief account of the second oldest Church in the city of Winnipeg is sent to you in the hope that you will find it interesting, and that it may help all who have at any time worshipped in Christ Church to find joy in memory.

Originally built amongst green fields, the Church now stands in the industrial heart of a great city, hemmed in by warehouses and manufacturing plants. The ideals of its founders are still dominant: Christian service to the community, sound churchmanship, and the best in choral worship. It is still, as it has always been, the Church of the stranger and the passer-by.

A Brief History of the Parish of Christ Church, Winnipeg

Compiled from the Parish Registers, Notes made by Ven. E. S. W. Pentreath (the first Rector), Reports of Synods of the Diocese of Rupert's Land, Abstracts from local newspapers, and Recollections by former Parishioners.

CCCC

THE Parish of Christ Church, Winnipeg, owes its foundation to the late Rev. Canon Grisdale (later first Dean of Rupert's Land and afterwards Bishop of Qu'Appelle), who, in 1875, opened a Sunday School at the home of Mr. W. G. Fonseca in the Point Douglas District, which was attended by the members of that family, the Logans, Barbers and McDonalds.

In an effort to meet the spiritual needs of a rapidly growing part of the city, this was transferred to a log building on the north-east corner of Henry and Main, known as Sutherland House, where a Miss Scott kept a Day School. Here Canon Grisdale also held an afternoon service.

In 1876, with the help of the Church Missionary Society, an acre of land (of which the present site is part) was purchased from Mr. Fonseca and a small brick Church erected on the corner of Princess and Henry, which was opened on 13th August. In this year, too, the Parish is mentioned for the first time in the Synod accounts, but not until 1880 was it sufficiently large to elect its own lay delegate to Synod, when it sent Mr. Fonseca.

By 1881 the needs of the congregation had outgrown this Church, and as half the site had been sold for \$15,000.00 during the "boom," it became possible to erect the second Church, which was opened on 24th November and stood on the corner of Princess and Higgins. About this time Rev. H. T. Leslie, B.A. (afterwards first Chafyn-Grove missionary), became Curate, and valuable gifts were made to the Church, notably the marble pulpit by Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Crotty in memory of their son, and the font in memory of Rev. W. H. Moore.

In 1882, upon being appointed Dean of Rupert's Land, Canon Grisdale resigned the incumbency and Rev. Edwyn S. W. Pentreath, Rector of St. George's Church, Moncton, N.B., was appointed to fill the vacancy. He arrived in Winnipeg on 4th May and commenced a ministry in the West which was as notable as the one he had left in the East. Of his work in Moncton he himself has said, "We had seen the Parish grow like a child, from a tiny thing to its present proportions. The only thing we had found was an old, inconvenient house, half burnt through, a pine prayer desk, and a font made out of a tiny preserve dish set in a case made out of a cigar box. We left it with a Church well appointed in every particular, a good school house and a growing congregation." He came to a district in Winnipeg where was "the C.P.R. station, yards with level crossings, round-houses and shops in it, and the immigration hall, or shed as it was then called, placed between station and round-house along Fonseca Street, a short distance west of the new Christ Church and the headquarters of the Southwestern Railway on the opposite corner, with numberless saloons, amusement parlours and dance halls on Main Street,

A Brief History of the Parish of Christ Church, Winnipeg

and much of the surrounding property covered by tents and shanties, built largely of old packing cases, to house the people flocking into the newly opening country, for the hotels were quite incapable of taking care of them."

Mr. Pentreath's first care was to make the Church attractive and interesting. He records that "The sequence of colours, choral services, altar cross, surpliced choir, Eastward position, weekly Communion and observance of all Festivals, daily service in Lent, the Three Hours' Service, orchestral music at stated times were introduced without opposition between '82 and '84." His second care was in systematic pastoral visiting from house to house in the Parish, by which he made many friends for the Church and enlarged and strengthened the congregation. In 1881 the Parish had reported that it had 50 families, 60 communicants and had raised \$513.25. At Easter 1884 it was able to report 200 families, 150 communicants and that it had raised \$3,943.34. In 1883 a Rectory was built and an organ installed, the latter costing \$2,000.00. In 1887, through the efforts of the Men's Society, a Mission was commenced on 6th March in a shanty on Gomez Street, and this in 1892 became known as St. Mark's. The work of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Holmes, the faithful ministry of Rev. Waddington Clarke and later of Rev. F. S. Lewis, and the labours of Rev. W. A. Burman, of St. Peter's, in connection with the removal of the debt on the building which was erected on Rachel Street in 1890, are outstanding memories of an effort in parochial decentralization which lasted for thirty years.

In 1890 the school of Christ Church was enlarged. In 1891 the Church itself was remodelled so as to become a new building. The walls were retained, but lowered; a new roof constructed, and transepts, choir vestries and chapel added. The Church was re-opened at a choral evensong on 30th November, in the presence of Archbishop Machray, the Bishops of North Dakota (who preached), Qu'Appelle, Mackenzie River and Assistant Bishop Gilbert of Minnesota (who gave an address). This Church was for twenty-five years a landmark in Winnipeg, and must be a treasured memory to hundreds of Anglican people scattered through the West of Canada. Here, on Trinity Sunday, 1893, six Deacons and nine Priests were ordained, the largest ordination held in the Diocese up to that time; Festal Evensongs were sung in connection with Provincial and Diocesan Synods; eloquent preachers spoke from its pulpit, and the wonderful singing of the choir was an inspiration to all who heard it. It was, however, beyond everything a parish centre: the stranger and the immigrant received a warm welcome; the needy and impotent a helping hand.

On 26th May, 1895, Canon Pentreath preached his farewell sermon in the Church he had served for thirteen years. Born in New Brunswick in 1846, he came of Cornish stock on his father's side, and U.E.L. on his mother's. He had been educated in England and at the General Theological Seminary, New York. In a ministry of eight years he had revived St. George's, Moncton, then the forlorn hope of the Diocese of Fredericton. His great work in Winnipeg was acknowledged by his being created the first Honorary Canon of St. John's Cathedral (3rd February, 1891). He was a delegate to the Provincial Synod in Montreal in 1883, to the General Synod of the American Church in Baltimore in 1892, and one of the three delegates from Rupert's Land to the first General Synod of Canada at Toronto in 1893. His name had been sub-

A Brief History of the Parish of Christ Church, Winnipeg

mitted for the Bishopric of Qu'Appelle in 1892. After a ministry of two years in the United States, he became Archdeacon of Columbia in 1897.

Canon Pentreath was succeeded by Rev. W. C. Bradshaw, of Port Arthur, described by those who knew him as a loving and good man. Unfortunately, ill-health prevented him being Rector for more than a few months. He was followed by Rev. Welbury T. Mitton, M.A., who as a young man had served in the transport division in the Riel Rebellion of '85, had been ordained in England and had served both the Diocese of Qu'Appelle and the Diocese of Rupert's Land for some years. A contemporary account pictures him as a scholarly man, with a cultured mind and a tactful disposition, who carefully felt his way in guiding the Church to a satisfactory financial and spiritual foundation. With him in 1897 became associated Rev. Sidney Carrington Chambers, who succeeded him as Rector in 1899. A perusal of the Parish Service Book for the next thirteen years reveals a remarkable record of faithful and unstinted parish service. A noted athlete, he had a peculiar hold on young men. Those who worked under him at that time recall those years with unusual joy, and what seemed to be too short a life was deeply mourned when it reached its close on 7th December, 1912.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners on 14th April, 1913, Rev. Wm. Walser (who had been in charge of the Parish since the previous May) was invited to become Rector. A man of singularly unassuming disposition, generous in heart and devoted to his work, a skilful musician besides, he laboured unceasingly during the War and post-War years to maintain the work in a neighbourhood which was becoming increasingly industrial in character. In 1916 the present Church was erected, incorporating all the heritage of its predecessors, and in its beauty and proportions providing an atmosphere of spiritual inspiration which is unusually impressive.

Mr. Walser's resignation at the end of 1924 was followed by a fifteen months' incumbency by Rev. H. Cawley, who was also Padre of Toc H, under whose energetic guidance excellent work was accomplished, Rev. Wm. Askey (to February 1927) and Rev. C. J. Cherry (to June 1928). In January 1929, Rev. H. J. Tomkins, Chafyn-Grove missionary, was appointed Rector, and the Church entered upon a zealous campaign of social service under the Christ Church Social Service Trust. The Sir Hugh John Macdonald Hostel for boys was founded, a relief centre for the unemployed established, which found help for thousands of homeless men, and many immigrants were cared for. Since his resignation in August 1931, Rev. Dean Matheson, Rev. Canon Guy P. Terry, and Rev. Canon W. F. Barfoot have been successively Priests-in-Charge, and have had the assistance of Mr. P. E. Robinson, a former member of the Church Army, as Lay Reader. No account of the Church would be complete without an appreciation of the voluntary services of these, particularly with regard to Canon Terry, who at an age when most men would be glad to seek a rest which had been well earned, came forward to serve the Church in a crisis with faithfulness and energy.

A Brief History of the Parish of Christ Church, Winnipeg

THE LATTER YEARS....

(continuation of history)

The Rev. H. W. J. Urquart's place was taken by Rev. G. W. F. McKinney (the brother of the present Rector of Holy Trinity) who in turn was succeeded by the Rev. H. Sherstone. Mr. Sherstone died during 1950 while serving as Rector of St. Mary Magdalene's church in St. Vital.

Early in 1943, the Rev. Walter Anderson began a four year ministry at Christ Church. Mr. Anderson was, in addition to all his work for Christ Church, responsible for the 'Church House' on Pembina Highway at Fort Garry, now the church and parish of St. John the Baptist. Mr. Anderson was also very much alive to the possibility of Christ Church ministering to those who work in the vicinity of the church, and for one winter arranged for mid-day meals to be available in the basement; meals which were not allowed to pass without a gentle reminder of the things of religion.

When Mr. Anderson left for the coast in February 1947, the church was for two and a half years under guidance of Mr. G. W. Ashton, church-warden and lay-reader, the sacramental ministrations being provided with great willingness by the clergy of neighbouring parishes. Christ Church owes a very great debt of gratitude to Mr. Ashton for his faithful and untiring leadership during this time.

With the coming of the Rev. G. M. Davidson in September 1949, history repeated itself, for, like the Rev. H. Cawley twenty-five years ago, Mr. Davidson is TOC H Padre as well as rector of the parish. 1950 saw Christ Church beginning to be heard 'on the air', on two occasions during the year our morning service having been broadcast.

And so we come to our 75th Anniversary to pause for a moment at our festival services on December 3rd and 10th to thank God for all that Christ Church has meant and been able to do in its three quarters of a century, and then to press on with prayers for His guidance a blessing in the years ahead.

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EXTEND CORDIAL ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE
DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND
THE ORIGINAL DEED CREATING
THE PARISH OF

Christ Church

(ANGLICAN)

Whereas in consequence of a wish expressed to us by the Church Missionary Society that that Society should have a Church belonging to it in the city of Winnipeg with a District attached to it to the Incumbency of which the Society might hereafter appoint their Secretary The Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land resolved that we might assign a District for that purpose out of that portion of St. John's Cathedral Parish lying within the city of Winnipeg and that the Committee of the Society should have the power of appointing a Clergyman on their list of Missionaries either as an ordinary or a special Missionary as the Incumbent of the said Church and District and of removing him at their pleasure and appointing another in his place.

Therefore We, ^{Bishop of Rupert's Land} Robert, with the advice and consent of the Chapter of Our Cathedral Church of St. John's do separate a District from that part of the Cathedral Parish of St. John's lying within the City of Winnipeg for the purposes of the said Resolution of the Synod and do erect it into a Separate Parish and We do further declare that such District shall be bounded as follows:- On the South by Alexander Street forming the Southern boundary of Alderman Logan's property, Lot 11, then by the Red River to the North line of Alderman Lusted's property Lot 33 to Euclid Street, - along the East side of Euclid Street to Austin Street - along the East side of Austin Street to the Southern boundary of the Hon. Dr. Schultz's property Lot 36, then along that boundary.

Given under Our hand and Seal on this the second day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy six and in the Eleventh year of our Consecration.

  Rupert's Land.

After only three months of life, Christ Church was recognized as a Parish Church, and this document over the seal & signature of "R. Rupert's Land" (Archbishop Machray) gave official standing and boundary to the new Enterprise. -

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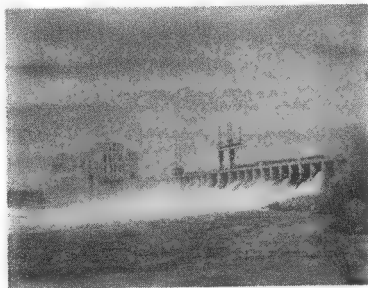


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